

RECORDINGS IN NATURAL CAVES

EASTER ISLAND

Grotte de Hotu-uti

Rano Raraku Volcano

Grotte de la Falaise d'Orongo

Orongo Cliffs

RIC-CL1 France 1964

ILE DE PAQUES – MUSIQUE DE SILENCE *

RIC – World – Ethnic – Vocal

Selections:

Side One – 1. Hiva-O (Recorded in Hotu-iti Cave)/ 2. Miru a Tekena (Traditional chant)/ 3. Nuahine (Chant of sorrow)

Side Two – 1. Te Kaina (Recorded in cave at the Orongo Cliffs)/ 2. Hotu Matu'a (Chant of the King's Death)/ 3. Ko Reva Harani (Chant for Deliverance)

Rts: Éditions de la Boite à Musique

Perf: (A native woman's voice & guitar)

Rec. Eng: Francis Mazière

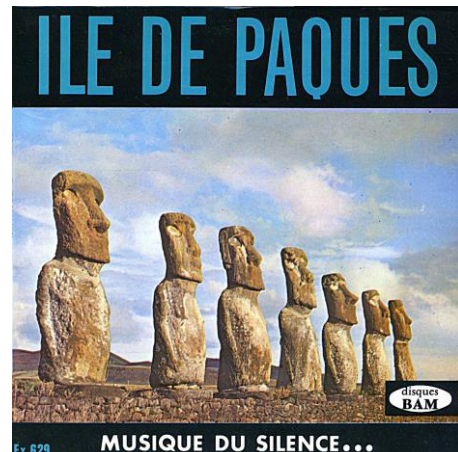
Liner Notes: Francis Mazière

Time:

EP: ILE DE PAQUES – MUSIQUE DE SILENCE

Label: Bam EX 629 (M)

Spec: 7" 45rpm (EP) (Sd 1 – Bd 1 & Sd 2 – Bd 1)



Notes: The 1962-65 French Expedition to Easter Island led by Francis Mazière spent over two years making archeological and ethnological studies. He was able to record over seven hours of ancient traditional music, which had very striking Polynesian characteristics regarding tempo and voice modulation. Of the six chants presented on this EP disc only two were recorded in caves on the island and two others were probably also recorded in caves.

All four sound like they were sung by the same native woman with the same guitar accompaniment under similar acoustical conditions (in an echoing cave chamber). The first, "Hiva-O" was recorded in the Hotu-iti Cave (on left), a secret lava tube located in the plain between the Rano Raraku Volcano (where all the monolithic statues were quarried) and Hotu-iti Bay in the northeastern sector of the island. A woman sings mournfully – "*Pleure l'oiseau d'ou jaillit le cri de la connaissance.*" [So weeps the bird from whom burst the cry of understanding.] According to tradition, Hiva, their land of origin, was a lost continent on the South Pacific. In his book Mazière speaks

about this song – "*Je me souviens toujours de l'impression extraordinaire que nous ressentîmes lorsque nous enregistrâmes, dans le silence d'une grotte, le très pur echo d'une voix feminine élevant doucement le chant d'Hiva.*" [I will always remember the extraordinary sensation that we experienced when we

recorded in the silence of one cave the very pure echo of a female voice softly exalting the chant of Hiva.] Well, it's all there on this disc, the chant and the "pure echo" at least, and it is quite memorable.

The second cave recording, "Te Kaina," was taped in a cave at the Orongo cliffs, a magic site with its numerous petroglyphs of "bird-men," located at the southwestern tip of the island. This is probably the Ana Kai Tangata (Bird-man Cave), also known as Cannibal Cave, which contains many petroglyphs of bird-men and is located close by Orongo on the coast below the Rano Kau Volcano. This is a chant for earth from which we all originate. A very haunting melody sung with penetrating crystal clarity.

The two other chants, which were probably recorded underground either in a cave or a stone chamber, are "Nuahine" and "Ko Reva Harani." The first is a lament –

Des pleurs d'une vieille femme	The tears of an old woman
Des pleurs pour ses fautes	Tears for her failings
Pour elles je pleure aussi ...	For them I also weep ...

And the second is a chant for deliverance –

Pour rejoindre la terre de France	Just to rejoin French soil
Tant de pleurs pour nos hommes	So many tears for our men
Pour nos frères ...	For our brothers ...

Mazière's book has been criticized as history-fiction containing several erroneous interpretations, but his disc stands as nice ethnological document

Ref: Anon. 2013, Tangata manu (Bird-man), [Wikipedia](#)

Easter Island, Description (in English), [Wikipedia](#) & Île de Pâques (in French), [Wikipedia](#)

Easter Island, Rock Art of Easter Island, Bradshaw Foundation, [bradshawfoundation](#)

Foote, Murray 2011, Easter Island (Ana Kai Tangata), [murrayfoote](#)

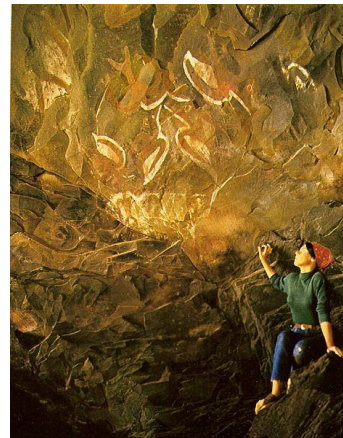
Île de Pâques – Musique de silence EP, [encyclopedisque](#)

King, Serge 2003, Caves, Easter Island/ Rapa Nui, [sergeking](#)

Mazière, Francis 1965, *Fantastique Ile de Paques*, Robert Laffont, Paris, p. 115-117, & 174; (for Hotu-iti caves) p. 59, 158, 163-166; (for Orongo caves – Grotte de Poiké) p. 178-179

Santic, John, Visiting Easter Island, Photo of Hotu-uti Cave, [johnsantic](#)

Squidoo 2013, Ana Kai Tangata – Man Eater Cave, [squidoo](#)



Unidentified Cave

RIC-CL2 France 1996

Mana Henua *

RIC – World – Ethnic – Vocal

Rts: Sony Music Publishing

Perf: (Unknown chanting singers)

Prod. Co: Noosphère Production

Rec. Eng: François Le Calvez, between 1987 & 1995

Liner Notes: François Le Calvez

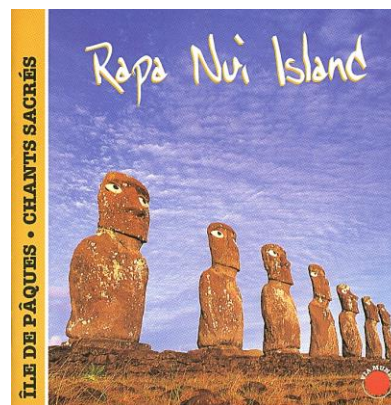
Time: 5:46

CD: ÎLE DE PÂQUES – CHANTS SACRÉS

Disques DIEM 200227 (Tk 6)

Notes: This chant was recorded in an unidentified cave on Rapa Nui Island. Repetitive chanting voices intermix with each other, lingering, extending, fading, and returning in a prolonged lament, all resounding in the cave.

The title of this chant means "supernatural power of the earth." The Mana is a constant force that calls to us, guides us, and invites us to evolve. The Mana joins living being and the universe to a superior force. It's the Mana that allowed the ancients to move the Moai statues, a veritable collective energy which generated cohesion between everyone. (Le Calvez et al. 1993) In discovering Mana one finds life, man, energy, love, and death. This initiation chant is a call to the forces of the earth, the universe of the great ancestors, those



who sculptured and erected over 1000 statues on the island. The Moai represent the great chiefs and they were made to assure the protection of the clans and families of those who sculpted them. (Liner notes)
 This harmonic chant is an invocation, which establishes a direct link with the invisible. Those who wish to accompany the Pascuan singers may take up the words along with this recorded chant. According to each one's sensibility the harmonic notes can be picked up while listening. (Liner notes)

Mana, Mana, Mana, Mana henua,	Mana, Mana, Mana, Mana of the earth,
Mana haka poreko, Mana moai,	Mana who generates, Mana of the Moai,
Mana Makemake, Mana i te ao, Man i te po,	Mana of the Makemake, Mana of the universe, Mana of the night
Ao, ao, ao Mana, Mana, Mana	Mana, Mana, we invoke you

Makemake was the chief god of the Tangata manu or Birdman cult on Easter Island. So this could possibly have been sung in the Ana Kai Tangata (Bird-man Cave), which contains many petroglyphs of bird-men and is located close by Orongo on the coast below the Rano Kau Volcano.

Ref: Easter Island, Description (in English), [Wikipedia](#) & Île de Pâques (in French), [Wikipedia](#)
 Le Calvez, François; Monconduit, Daniel; & van den Heede, Patrick 1993, *Itinéraire Spirituel: île de Pâques: À la rencontre du Mana*, Albin Michel, Paris, p. 30-33, 138-139,

Unidentified Cave

RIC-CL3 France 1996

Te Tupuna nui (Les Grandes Ancêtres) *

RIC – New Age – World – Ethnic – Instrumental & Vocal

Comp: (Keyboard) François LE CALVEZ

Rts: Dorje, 1996

Perf: (Unknown singer) (vocal)

(Unknown chanting singers)

François **LE CALVEZ** (keyboards)

(?) (percussions)

Prod. Co: Disques DIEM; Gargas, France

Rec. Eng: François Le Calvez, between 1987 & 1995

Liner Notes: François Le Calvez

Time: 3:33

CD: MYSTÉRIEUSE ÎLE DE PÂQUES – MANA RAPA NUI
 Disques DIEM 200228 (Tk 4)

Notes: This selection is introduced by haunting chanting voices backed by sustained keyboard notes and gourd-rattle percussion followed by a native male performing a short initiation chant and then a return to the ensemble of mixed chanting voices. The chants were recorded in an unidentified cave on Rapa Nui Island. The lone chanter delivers a call to the great ancestors, those who sculptured and erected over 1000 statues on the island. The Moai statues honor the great chiefs who protect the clans.

Tupuna, tupuna, e te tupuna	Ancestors, ancestors, you the ancestors
Tupuna hiva e, tupuna te pito o te henua	Ancestors of the land of origins, Ancestors of the navel of the world
Tupuna ta'ato'a ...	Ancestors of the universe, we invoke you ...

Like the previous piece, "Mana Henua," this harmonic chant is an invocation, which establishes a link with the invisible. The musical orchestration is meant to bring out the magical aspects of this appeal that could be thought to resemble certain Tibetan mantras. (Liner notes)

"Le culte des ancêtres (destiné à des entités familiales ou claniques) a été progressivement supplanté par le culte du dieu Makemake et de l'homme-oiseau qui étend désormais son autorité sur l'ensemble de la population." (Anon. 2013) [Ancestor worship (meant for family or clan entities) has been gradually supplanted by the cult of the god Makemake and the birdman, which is now extending its authority over the entire population.]

Ref: Anon. 2013, Île de Pâques (in French), [Wikipedia](#)

